

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 17, 21-23, and 25 are pending in the present application. Claim 17 is amended. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The examiner rejected claims 17, 21-25, and 34 as indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 17 to correct the clearly typographical error. Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered in order to place the application in better condition for appeal.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The examiner objected to the drawings as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the examiner stated:

"Therefore, an antiferromagnet and at least one permanent magnet must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered."

Final Office Action of January 30, 2006, pp. 2-3.

Applicants point out that these features are shown in the drawings. For example, an antiferromagnet is shown in Figure 3 at reference numeral 340. Additionally, permanent magnets are shown in Figure 8 at reference numerals 860 and 870. Therefore, this objection has been overcome.

III. Asserted Anticipation Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 9, 17, 22, and 25 as anticipated by *Coffey et al., Spin Valve Magnetoresistive Sensor with Self-Pinned Laminated Layer and Magnetic Recording System Using the Sensor*, U.S. Patent 5,583,725 (December 10, 1996) (hereinafter *Coffey*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons presented in the previous response to office action. Applicants will present additional arguments for patentability over *Coffey* upon appeal.

IV. Asserted Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The examiner rejected claims 7 and 23 as obvious over *Coffey* in view of *Tobise et al., Magnetoresistive Playback Head*, U.S. Patent 5,748,416 (May 8, 1998) (hereinafter "*Tobise*"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons presented in the previous response to office action. Applicants will present additional arguments for patentability over the combination of *Coffey* and *Tobise* upon appeal.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 17, 21, and 22 as obvious over *Balamane et al., Method of*

Making a Free Layer for a Spin Valve Sensor with a Lower Uniaxial Anisotropy Field, U.S. Patent 6,662,432 (December 16, 2003) (hereinafter "*Balamane*") in view of *Coffey*. This rejection is respectfully traversed as the examiner has failed to state a *prima facie* obviousness rejection. The examiner has failed to state a *prima facie* obviousness rejection because the proposed combination does not teach all of the features of the claims and because the examiner has failed to state a proper teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine the references. Applicants will provide further argument and additional detailed argument in these regards upon appeal.

V. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment and response to office action be entered in order to place the application in better condition for appeal. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully urge that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



Theodore D. Fay III
Reg. No. 48,504
Yee & Associates, P.C.
P.O. Box 802333
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 385-8777
Attorney for Applicant